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186

DIGITAL
EDITION

McFARLANE
PORTACIO
HOLGUIN

SPAWN®

ENDGAME PART TWO



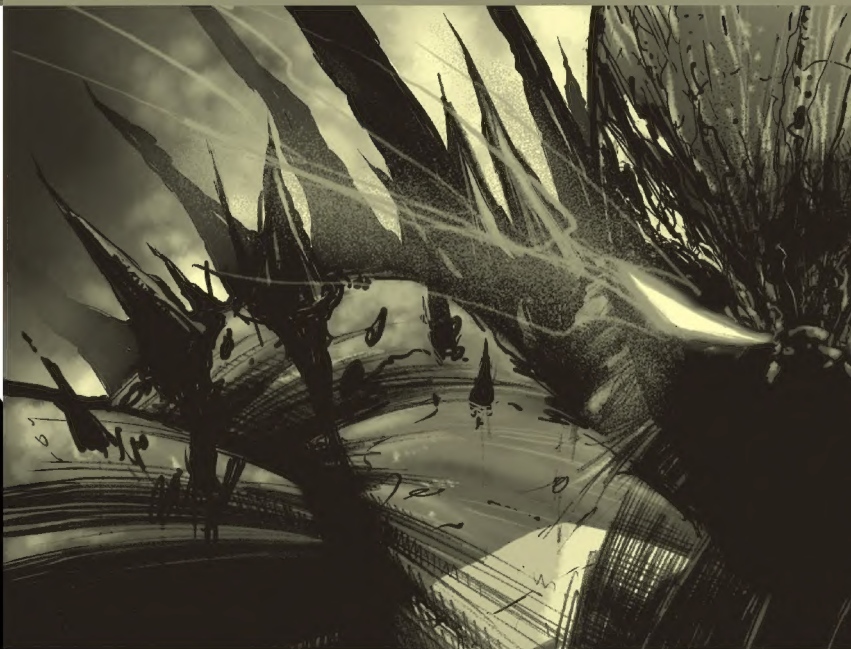
McFARLANE

Jim Hsu

Al Simmons was a hit man for the U.S. government until his C.O. Jason Wynn, betrayed him and a mysterious assassin ended Al's life. At the moment of his death, Al was offered a deal by the demon Malebolgia and returned to Earth as Spawn, a creature with supernatural powers born in Hell.

Todd McFarlane and Image Comics Present

ENDGAME PART 2



PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Having thwarted the latest plots of the demon lord Mammon and his allies, Simmons has glimpsed his future. He realizes his struggles against his fate have become a futile quest for redemption; he remains a pawn in the Great Game between Heaven and Hell. Returning to the alleys he used to haunt, Simmons decides it is time to put an end to this vicious cycle once and for all. Using the last vestige of his power, he blows his own head off – the one true way to kill a Hellspawn.

This act sends ripples across the realms of Heaven and Hell, alerting both sides that something is out of balance. Furthermore, Simmons' act seems to have created an "anomaly" where he lay – a patch of earth where neither Heaven nor Hell holds power.

At the moment of Simmons' death, a young man wakes up in a New York hospital after years in a coma. Suffering from acute memory loss and disturbing visions, his body recovers at a supernatural pace.

Not everyone reacts so favorably. A hospital janitor places a surreptitious call announcing that "Patient 47" has woken up. This information causes the recipient of the call to immediately take his own life.

Later, Simmons' longtime tormentor, the Clown, visits the alley to investigate the cause of the anomaly. There he stumbles upon Simmons' corpse.

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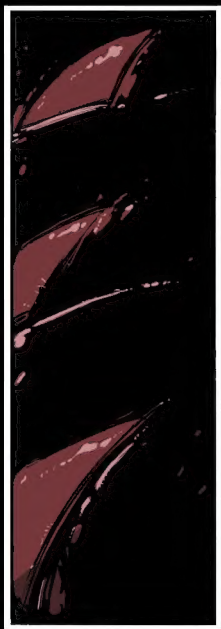
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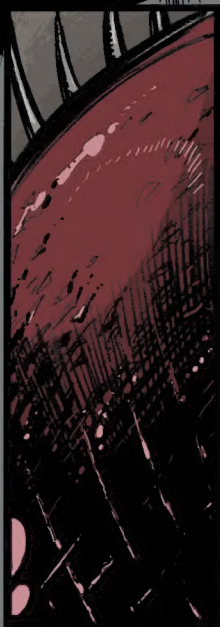
SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD MCFARLANE

image
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PRODUCTIONS
SPAWN.COM

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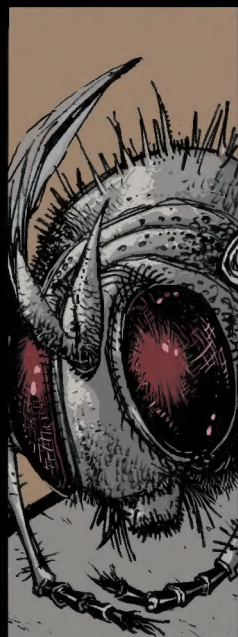
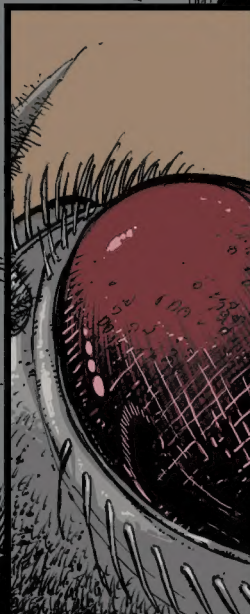


WHY?



WHY
WOULD HE
GIVE UP NOW? IT
DOESN'T MAKE
SENSE.

AND
WHY DO IT
HERE IN *THIS*
SPOT-- WHICH
SHOULDN'T
EVEN
EXIST.



MY CYNICAL
SIDE SAYS IT'S
SOME KIND OF TRICK--
A TRAP. BUT THERE'S
NO 'LIFE FORCE' AND **NO**
SPAWN CAN EXIST WITH-
OUT IT. **NOT** HERE.
NOT IN HELL.
NOWHERE!

MEANING...

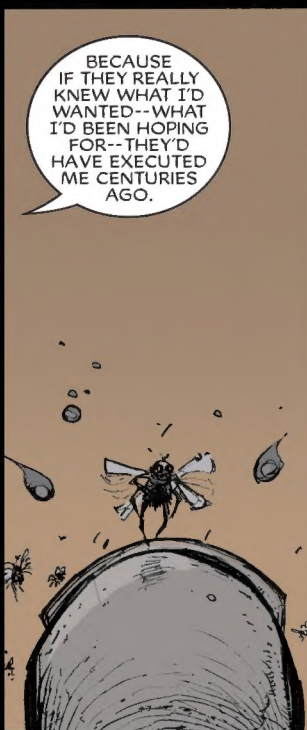
**I'M
FREE!**

BECAUSE
NOW THEY'RE **BOTH**
DEAD! MALEBOLGIA
AND SPAWN. OH, SURE
I WISH IT WAS ME
WHO HAD KILLED
THEM, BUT I KNEW THE
'**ELDERS**' WERE
WATCHING.



SO I
CONTINUED
TO PLAY THE
CLOWN--THEIR
ETERNAL
FOOL.

BECAUSE
IF THEY REALLY
KNEW WHAT I'D
WANTED--WHAT
I'D BEEN HOPING
FOR--THEY'D
HAVE EXECUTED
ME CENTURIES
AGO.



LIKE THEY
DID MY
FATHER.



SPLAT!

WHICH
MEANS I NEED TO
SNATCH THIS OPPORTUNITY
NOW! BEFORE ANYONE
KNOWS WHAT'S HAPPENED.
BUT EVEN IF THEY DO, THAT'S
OKAY-- BECAUSE SPAWN'S
DEATH WILL CONFUSE
EVERYONE FOR A
WHILE.





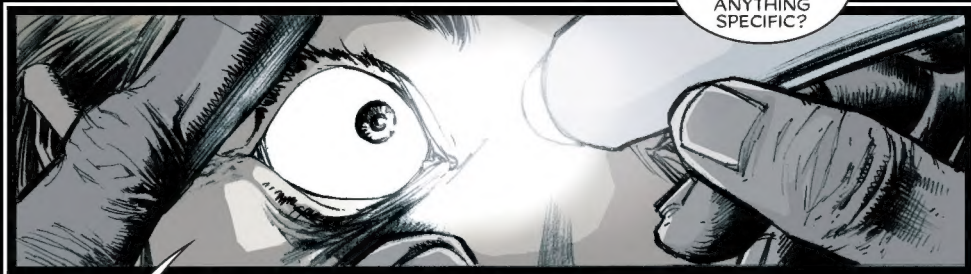
EXACTLY
How
I GOT THAT
NAME!



WE'RE
NEARLY DONE--
JUST A FEW MORE
MINUTES. BREATHE
OUT...GOOD, AND
ONCE AGAIN.

EXCELLENT.

YOUR
MEMORY?
HAVE YOU BEEN
ABLE TO RECALL
ANYTHING
SPECIFIC?



NO.
NOT
YET.

THAT'S
ALL RIGHT.
IT'LL COME. YOUR
RESULTS SHOW
THERE ISN'T ANY
PHYSICAL TRAUMA
TO THE MEMORY
CENTERS OF
YOUR BRAIN.

JUST KEEP TRYING.
SOMETIMES IT JUST
TAKES ONE FAMILIAR IMAGE
FROM YOUR PAST TO GET
THINGS GOING. A BIRTHDAY
OR SPECIAL EVENT. YOUR
HOUSE OR A CHILD-
HOOD TOY.

EVEN
A NAME--
OR A
FACE.



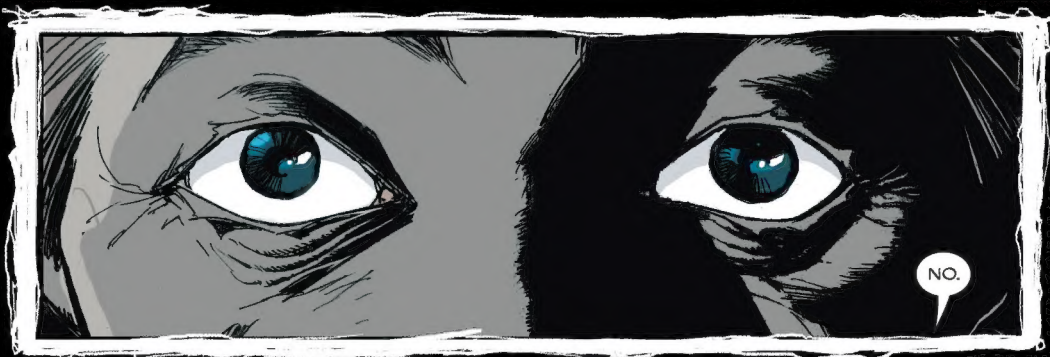
A
FACE?



SURE.
A SINGLE
MEMORY CAN
TRIGGER AN
AVALANCHE
OF REVELA-
TIONS.

YOU
RECALL
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?







WELL, KEEP TRYING. DR. BAXTER AND DR. WAKE WILL BE IN IN A BIT TO RUN A FEW MORE TESTS.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT WITH ME. I'M FINE. YOU CAN GO.

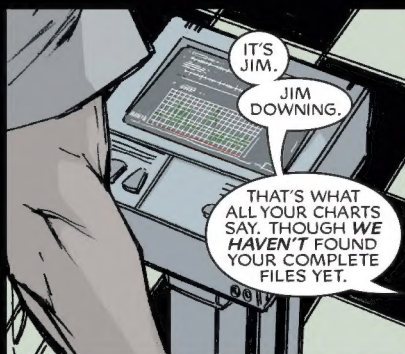
I DON'T MIND.



CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

SURE.

DO YOU KNOW MY NAME?



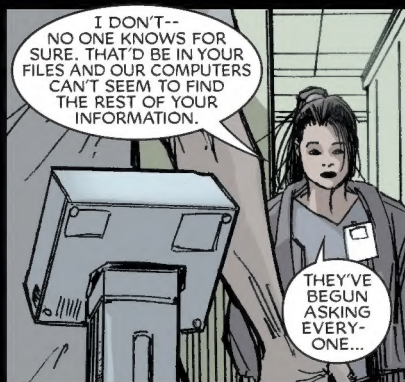
IT'S JIM.

JIM DOWNING.

THAT'S WHAT ALL YOUR CHARTS SAY. THOUGH WE HAVEN'T FOUND YOUR COMPLETE FILES YET.

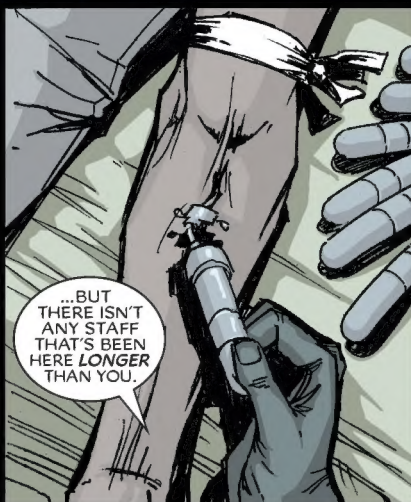


HOW LONG WAS I IN A COMA?



I DON'T-- NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE. THAT'D BE IN YOUR FILES AND OUR COMPUTERS CAN'T SEEM TO FIND THE REST OF YOUR INFORMATION.

THEY'VE BEGUN ASKING EVERYONE...



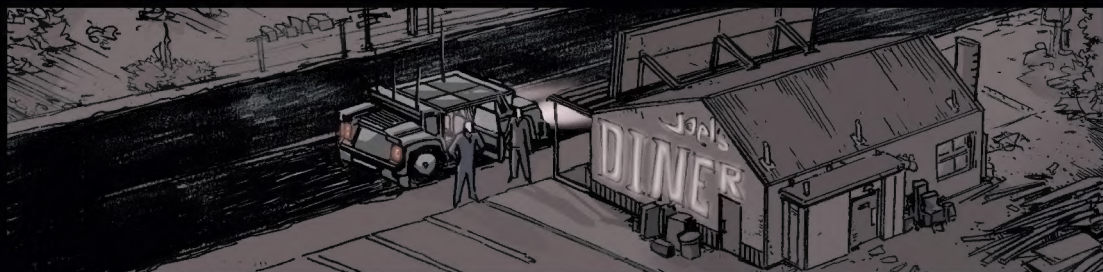
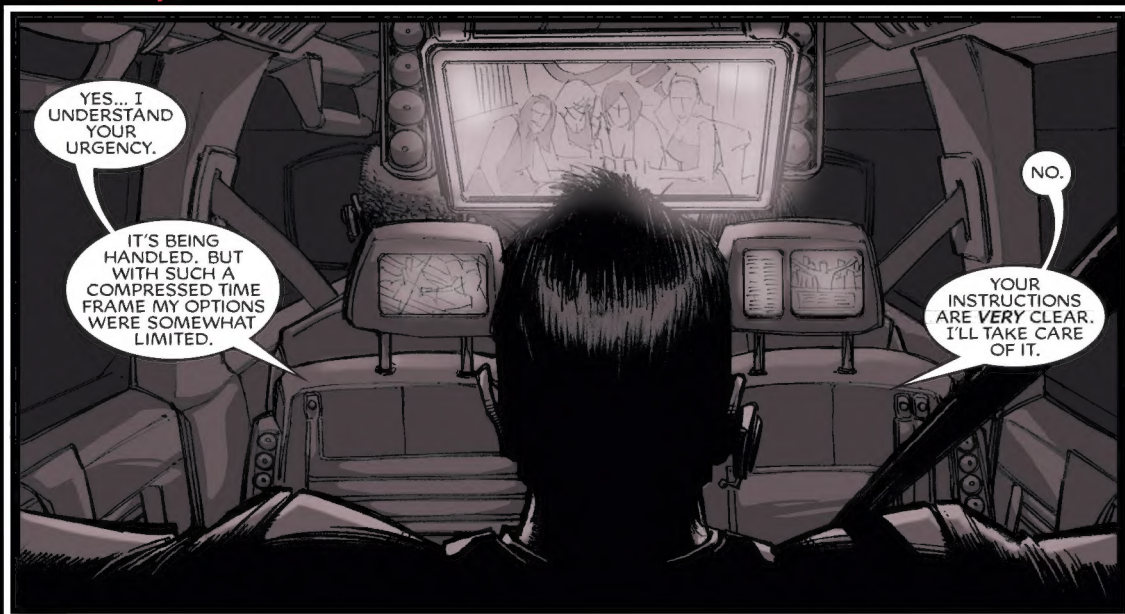
...BUT THERE ISN'T ANY STAFF THAT'S BEEN HERE LONGER THAN YOU.



AND THAT'S BEEN...?

AT LEAST FOUR YEARS.

South Jersey.



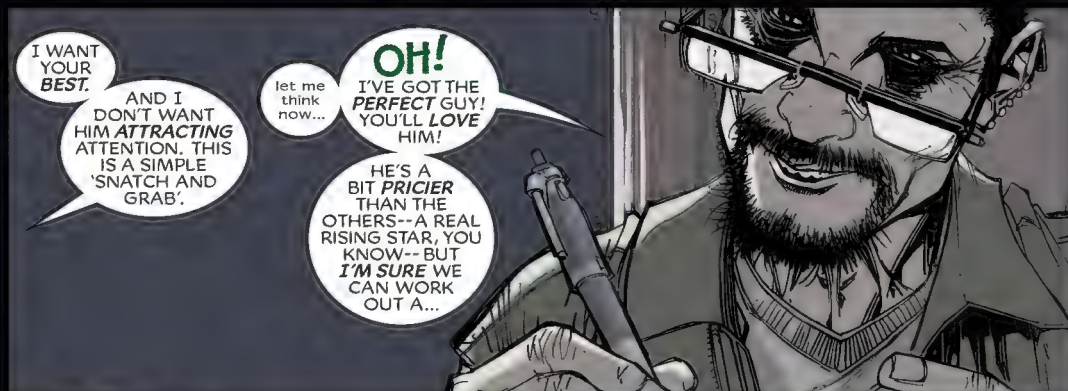


THAT
DOESN'T
CONCERN
YOU.

COOL.
I GET IT.
THAT'S
COOL.

SO
WHAT
ARE YOU
SHOPPING
FOR?

YOU WANT
LIKE A MATT
DAMON TYPE?
OR A VIN DIESEL
GUY? OR MAYBE
YOU'D PREFER AN
UNDERSTATED
PRESENCE.



I WANT
YOUR
BEST.

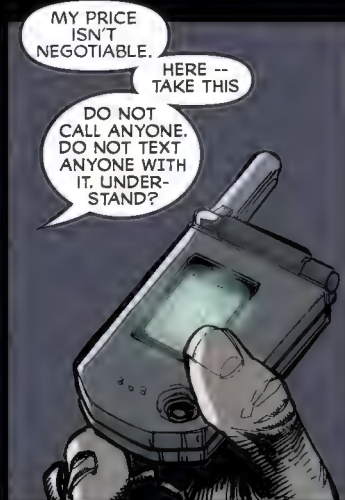
AND I
DON'T WANT
HIM **ATTRACTING**
ATTENTION. THIS
IS A SIMPLE
'SNATCH AND
GRAB'.

let me
think
now...

OH!

I'VE GOT THE
PERFECT GUY!
YOU'LL **LOVE**
HIM!

HE'S A
BIT **PRICIER**
THAN THE
OTHERS--A REAL
RISING STAR, YOU
KNOW-- BUT
I'M SURE WE
CAN WORK
OUT A...



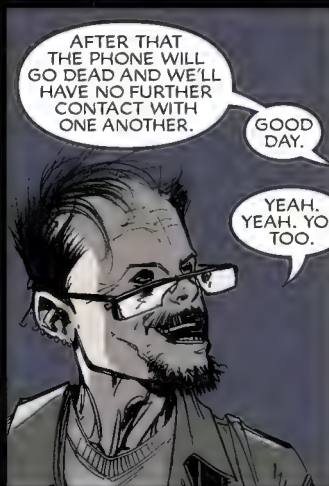
MY PRICE
ISN'T
NEGOTIABLE.

HERE --
TAKE THIS

DO NOT
CALL ANYONE.
DO NOT TEXT
ANYONE WITH
IT. UNDER-
STAND?



THREE
HOURS
PRIOR TO--
THE '**GIG**'--
YOU'LL RECEIVE
A MESSAGE
DETAILING THE
JOB LOCATION
AND A BANK
PASS CODE TO
ACCESS YOUR
FEES.



AFTER THAT
THE PHONE WILL
GO DEAD AND WE'LL
HAVE NO FURTHER
CONTACT WITH
ONE ANOTHER.

GOOD
DAY.

YEAH.
YEAH. YOU
TOO.



AND DON'T
WORRY! I'VE GOT
THE **GUY!** BELIEVE ME,
YOU'LL **LOVE** HIM!
HE'S A **FREAKIN'**
STAR!

I'LL GIVE
HIM TO YOU AT
SCALE--THIS TIME!
BUT SIX MONTHS FROM
NOW, EVERYONE'LL BE
LINING UP TO PAY **TRIPLE!**

**TRUST
ME!**

WE'VE
DONE THIS
A THOUSAND
TIMES BEFORE,
BUT TONIGHT'S
GOING TO BE
DIFFERENT.



YOU'RE STILL
ASLEEP, I KNOW, BUT
THAT'S *NOT THE SAME*
AS A COMA-- I GUESS
THAT'S WHY I'M FEELING
SO NERVOUS.

AND
GUILTY.



THESE TALKS
AND NIGHTLY
PRAYERS HAVE
MEANT SO MUCH TO
ME-- I STILL CAN'T
BELIEVE IT'S BEEN
ALMOST *TWO*
YEARS.

BUT NOW
THE DOCTORS
ARE SAYING YOU'RE
MAKING AN AMAZING
RECOVERY. THEY'VE
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE IT. YOUR WEIGHT,
METABOLISM, *ALL* OF
YOUR VITALS, EVERY-
THING IS JUST-- WELL,
THEY SAY YOU'RE
A *MIRACLE*.

I'M NOT
READY TO BE
ALL ALONE
AGAIN.

AND THOUGH
NOBODY'S SAID WHEN--
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE GOING
HOME SOON. SO I DON'T
KNOW HOW MANY MORE
NIGHTS WE'LL HAVE TOGETHER.
THAT'S WHERE *MY GUILT*
COMES IN. I DON'T WANT
YOU TO GO-- AT LEAST
NOT YET.



SO BEFORE
WE GET STARTED,
I NEED TO SAY
SOMETHING TO
YOU. SOMETHING I
SHOULD HAVE SAID
A LONG TIME
AGO...

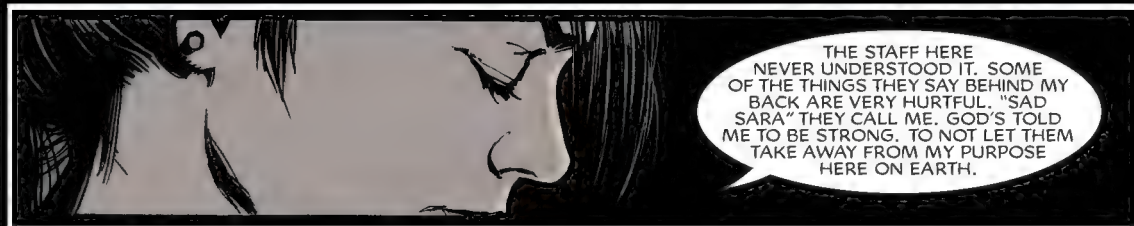


THANK
YOU.

THANKS
FOR ALWAYS
BEING THERE WHEN
I NEEDED SOMEONE
AND-- AND THANKS
FOR SIMPLY
LISTENING
TO ME.



IT'S GOTTEN
ME THROUGH
MANY ROUGH
TIMES. ESPECIALLY
WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE
GOD WASN'T LISTENING
TO MY PRAYERS. YOU
WERE THE ONLY
ONE I COULD
TURN TO.



THE STAFF HERE
NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT. SOME
OF THE THINGS THEY SAY BEHIND MY
BACK ARE VERY HURTFUL. "SAD
SARA" THEY CALL ME. GOD'S TOLD
ME TO BE STRONG. TO NOT LET THEM
TAKE AWAY FROM MY PURPOSE
HERE ON EARTH.

THOUGH,
I KEEP
WAITING FOR
HIM TO TELL ME
WHAT THAT
'PURPOSE' IS.



Langley, Virginia.



JESUS.

WHAT
COULD
POSSIBLY DRIVE
A MAN TO THAT
POINT?





AND WHAT'S THIS GUY DOING HIDING A GUN IN A SECRET COMPARTMENT?

IT GETS BETTER. JOHNSON AND RITOWSKI DID A SWEEP OF THE HOUSE-- THERE ISN'T ANOTHER BULLET IN THE ENTIRE PLACE.



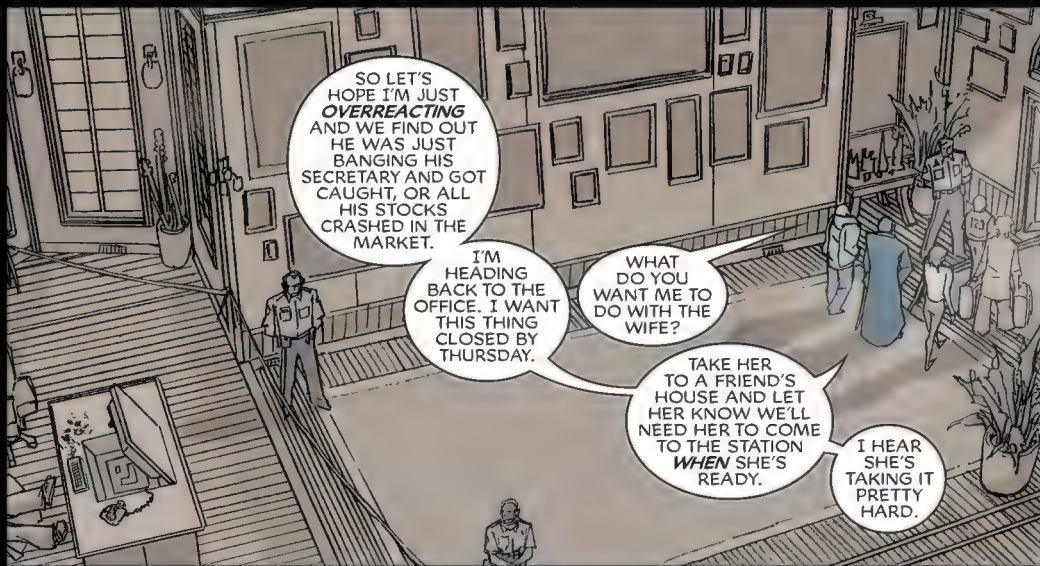
SO THE GUN WASN'T FOR PROTECTION. MEANING ONE OF TWO THINGS-- EITHER THIS GUY'S A SUICIDAL MANIAC WHO'S BEEN THINKING OF KILLING HIMSELF FOR A WHILE AND LAST NIGHT HE FINALLY GETS BRAVE ENOUGH TO DO IT, OR...



HE WAS AFRAID OF SOMETHING ELSE.

EXACTLY.

AND HE KNEW THIS DAY WOULD EVENTUALLY COME.



SO LET'S HOPE I'M JUST **OVERREACTING** AND WE FIND OUT HE WAS JUST BANGING HIS SECRETARY AND GOT CAUGHT, OR ALL HIS STOCKS CRASHED IN THE MARKET.

I'M HEADING BACK TO THE OFFICE. I WANT THIS THING CLOSED BY THURSDAY.

WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO WITH THE WIFE?

TAKE HER TO A FRIEND'S HOUSE AND LET HER KNOW WE'LL NEED HER TO COME TO THE STATION **WHEN** SHE'S READY.

I HEAR SHE'S TAKING IT PRETTY HARD.



YOU'D BE TOO IF YOU FOUND THE DOG LICKING YOUR HUSBAND'S BRAINS OFF THE CARPET.

NICE, FRANK.

I'M JUST SAYING.

3:27 A.M.



DON'T USE
YOUR NATURAL
STATE--YOU NEED A
TANGIBLE FORM
HERE.



HOW'S
THIS?

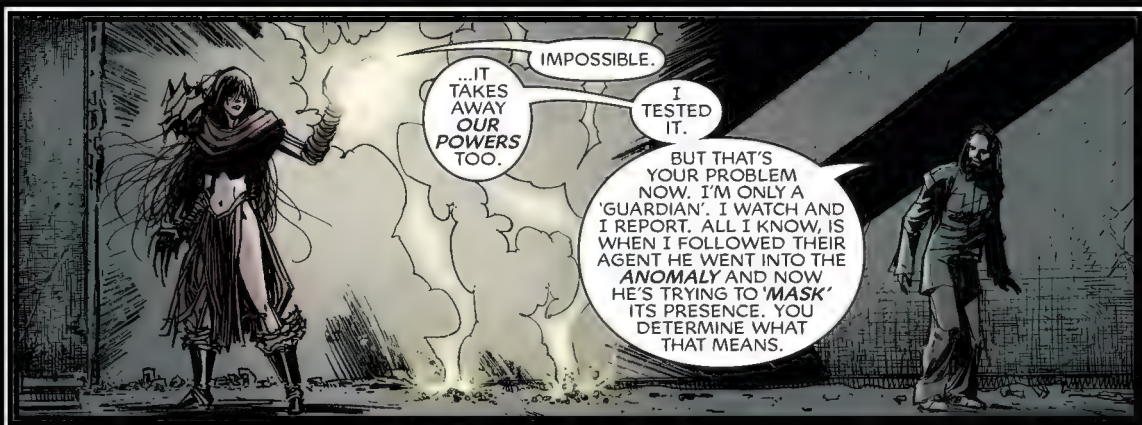
THEY SAID
YOU FOUND
AN *ANOMALY*
WHERE THERE
SHOULDN'T
BE ONE.

THAT
MEANS
SOMEONE'S
TRYING TO
SHIFT ONE OF
THE *DEAD*
ZONES.

A BIT
MELODRAMATIC,
BUT IT'LL DO.

NO.

IT'S
MORE THAN
THAT...



...IT
TAKES
AWAY
OUR
POWERS
TOO.

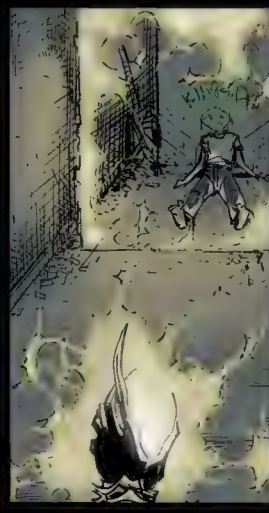
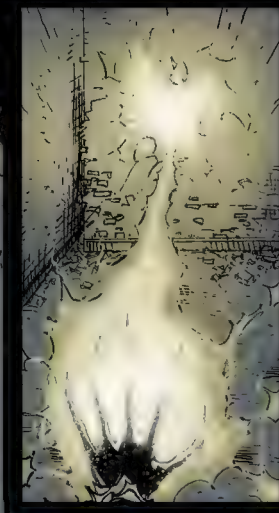
IMPOSSIBLE.

I
TESTED
IT.

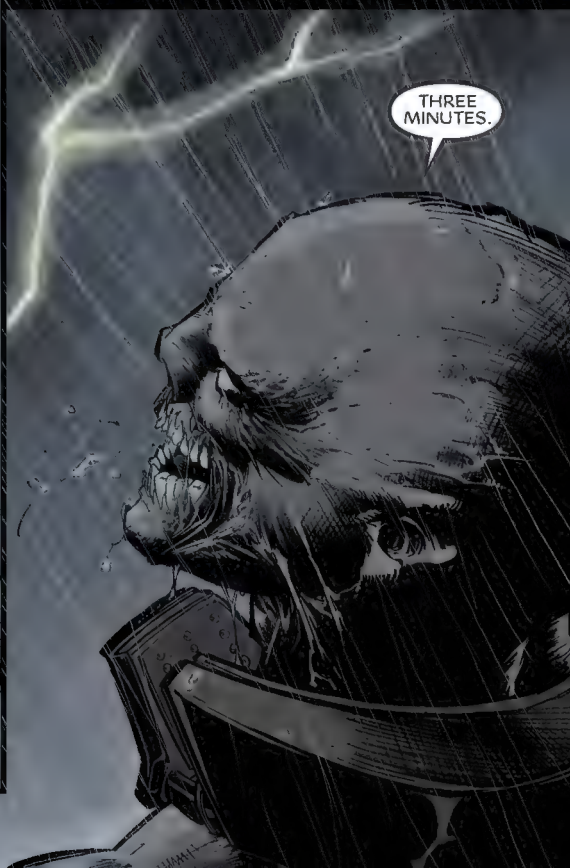
BUT THAT'S
YOUR PROBLEM
NOW. I'M ONLY A
'GUARDIAN'. I WATCH AND
I REPORT. ALL I KNOW, IS
WHEN I FOLLOWED THEIR
AGENT HE WENT INTO THE
ANOMALY AND NOW
HE'S TRYING TO '**MASK**'
ITS PRESENCE. YOU
DETERMINE WHAT
THAT MEANS.



YOU'LL
FIND THE
ISOLATED AREA
AROUND THE
CORNER ABOUT
EIGHTY YARDS
DOWN.



THEY'RE
NOT GOING
TO LIKE
THIS.



...SHE SAID I SPENT
TOO MUCH TIME IN MY ROOM.
THAT I WASN'T TRYING HARD
ENOUGH TO BE LIKE THE OTHERS OR
THAT I'D NEVER GET A DATE BECAUSE
THE BOYS WOULDN'T LIKE SOMEONE
THAT WAS AFRAID TO GO OUT OF
THE HOUSE. THAT'S WHAT
SHE ALWAYS SAID--THAT
I WAS **AFRAID**.

JUST
ONCE.

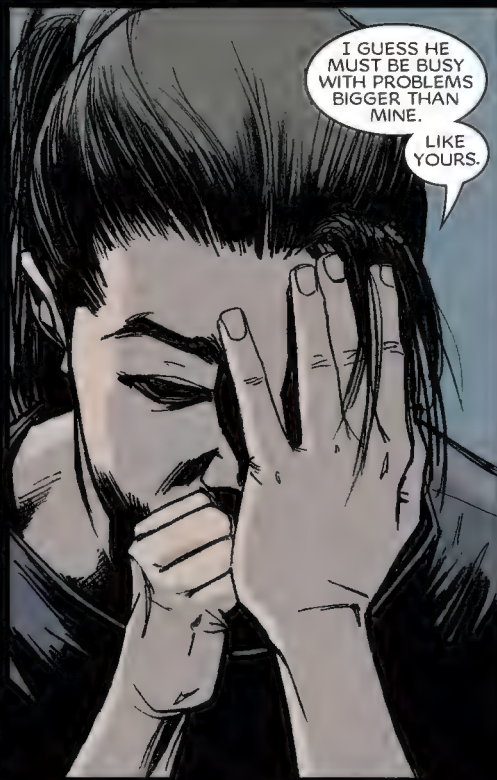
BUT, SHE
NEVER ASKED
ONCE WHY I WAS
DOING IT. YOU'D THINK
MAYBE SHE'D HAVE
WANTED TO KNOW
WHAT WAS KEEPING
ME IN MY ROOM
SO MUCH...

EVEN AFTER
I FOUND OUT I'D
BEEN ADOPTED, YOU'D
THINK THAT WOULD HAVE
GIVEN HER CAUSE TO WONDER
WHY HER DAUGHTER WAS
SUCH AN OUTCAST. AND
EVERY TIME DAD TRIED TO GET
INVOLVED, HE ONLY SEEMED
INTERESTED FOR ABOUT A
DAY. THEN HE'D IGNORE IT.
HE WAS THE **OPPOSITE**
OF MOM--ACTING AS
IF NOTHING WAS
EVER WRONG.

AND I
PRAYED TO
GOD EVERY NIGHT
TO TAKE AWAY MY
LONELINESS AND
HELP MAKE ME
FIT IN.

I GUESS HE
MUST BE BUSY
WITH PROBLEMS
BIGGER THAN
MINE.

LIKE
YOURS.



I NEED TO
GO NOW--
SLEEP
TIGHT.



sara.









Tyrant
Lizard
King

EMPIRE